

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Public Services – A.P. Forest Department – Departmental Proceedings initiated against Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Social Forestry Ponnur Section, Social Forestry Ponnur Range of Social Forestry Guntur Division, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Punishment of "Withholding of 6% (Six Percent) of pension permanently, besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.10,30,540/- (Principle Amount Rs.9,52,000/- + Interest Amount @ 6.25% Rs.59,500/- + Addl. Interest @ 2% Rs.19,040/-) and suspension period be treated as not on duty", against the Charged Officer - Imposed - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.70

**Dated:20.10.2023.
Read the following:**

- 1)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur Lr.Ref.No.7135/2017/A&DC-1, dated 14.12.2021.
- 2)Govt.Memo.No.2543/Sec.IV/A1/2021, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 24.04.2023.
- 3)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, Lr.Ref.No.7135/2017/A&DC-2, dated 09.08.2023.
- 4)Govt.Letter.No.2543/Sec.IV/A1/2021, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 25.08.2023.
- 5)From the Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada, Lr.No.GAD03-APPS0DCC/91/2023-DC.SEC-APPSC (Computer No.2205839), dated 09.10.2023.

ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has informed that the following Article of Charge was framed against Sri B.Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer, earlier Social Forestry Ponnur Section, Social Forestry Ponnur Range of Social Forestry Guntur Division by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests / Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle in Rc.No.3143/2015/M3, dated 11.12.2015, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991:

Article:"That Sri B. Parthasaradhi while working as Deputy Range Officer, SF Ponnur Section, SF Ponnur Range of SF Guntur Division has exhibited gross neglect and shown lack of devotion to duty in executing the works and incurred expenditure of Rs.9.52 Lakhs without any work there by causing huge loss to the Government contravening the provisions of Rule-3 of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964".

2. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 02.01.2016 and submitted his explanation on 05.12.2016 after lapse of stipulated time. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur has appointed the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Guntur as Inquiry Officer and Forest Range Officer (T), Guntur as Presenting Officer in Proc.No.3143/2015/M3 (i&ii), dated 19.04.2016 respectively, for conducting the regular inquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer & Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Guntur has conducted inquiry and submitted the findings to Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle in Rc.No.352/2015/S3, dated 18.02.2017, in which he concluded as follows:-

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Findings of the Inquiry Officer:-

It is observed that the Charged Officer committed the following irregularities:-

1. Crediting the Government funds from Government Account to personal account of Sri Pawan Kumar, contractor, contrary to the provisions Government orders vide G.O.Ms.No.2, EFS&T(For.III) Dept., dt.07.01.2004.Thus caused misappropriation of Government funds.
 2. Not making any attempt to achieve the fixed planting target of 110 Kms even after issue of notices by the then DFO, SF Guntur. Thus effected the achievement of Division targets in Toto.
 3. Recorded evidence such as M. Book with check measurement of works by competent authority etc., not produced before the Inquiry Officer.
 4. Not taken prior permission from PWD/R&B Dept., for taking up Road avenue plantation along the roads and incurred the expenditure, which resulted closing of pits by concerned Engineering Department and thereby caused loss to the Government to a tune of Rs.9,52,088/-.
 5. Not showing interest and dedication and showing lethargy in achieving the fixed nursery and planting targets in his Range.
4. As per the recorded evidence, the charge levelled against the Charged Officer is **proved beyond any reasonable doubt**. The Inquiry Officer has requested the disciplinary authority/Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle to observe the Government loss while finalizing the disciplinary case.
5. The disciplinary case was finalized by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests / Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle by awarding a punishment of "Stoppage of two (2) increments without cumulative effect besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.9,52,088/-". The suspension period from 10.10.2015 to 23.02.2017 was treated as not on duty and to regularize the period of suspension as leave for which he is eligible" vide Proc.No.3143/2015/M3, dated 23.02.2017.Subsequently, the Charged Officer was retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation 28.02.2017.
6. Aggrieved by the above orders, Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.) has preferred an appeal petition before the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF. After verification of available records and remarks of the Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has issued the following order in Proc.No.7135/2017/A&DC-2(i), dated 11.10.2017.
- "The Appeal Petition of Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Dy.RO (Retd.) against the penalty of "Stoppage of Two (2) increments without cumulative effect besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.9,52,088/-". The suspension period from 10.10.2015 to 23.02.2017 was treated as not on duty and to regularize the period of suspension as leave for which he is eligible" issued by the CF, Guntur in Proc.No.3143/2015/M3, dt.23.02.2017, is hereby admitted and the disciplinary authority is requested to follow the rules and procedure under Rule 21(2) of A.P.C.S. (CC & A) Rules 1991 and submit necessary proposals on the disciplinary case with justification for onward submission to Government at the earliest, under A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 as amended in G.O.Ms.No.85, Finance & Planning (FW.Pen-1) Department, dt.12.07.1999 and G.O.Ms.No.995, Finance (Pension-1) Department, dated 21.12.2002".

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::3::

7. As per instructions of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, the findings of the Inquiry Officer & Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Guntur were communicated to the Charged Officer by the Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle Rc.No.2186/2013/M3, dated 25.10.2017 and the Charged Officer also acknowledged the receipt of the findings on 28.11.2017. Further, the Charged Officer has submitted his written representation on the findings of the Inquiry Officer & Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Guntur. The Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Guntur has submitted his remarks on the written representation of the Charged Officer.

8. The Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle in Rc.No.2186/2017/M3, dated 06.04.2021 has informed that the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Guntur submitted report in Rc.No.352/2015/S3, dated 05.03.2021 and stated that, the interest rate has been calculated with reference to the existing bank interest rates on the amount of Rs.9.52 Lakh with effect from 01.01.2017 duly taking into consideration the interest rates allowed on fixed deposits for the nationalized Banks over a tenure of 01 to 10 years as follows:-

Sl. No.	Year	Principal amount in Rs.	Rate of interest (%)	Amount	Addl. Interest (%)	Amount	Total interest amount in Rs.
1	2017	9,52,000/-	6.25%	59,500/-	2%	19,400/-	78,540/-

1	Principal Amount	Rs.9,52,000/-
2	Interest Amount @6.25%	Rs.59,500/-
3	Addl.Interest@2%	Rs.19,040/-
4	Total Amount	Rs.10,30,540/-

As per the above, the total amount of Rs.10,30,540/-(Rs.9,52,000/- +Rs.78,540/-) is to be recovered from Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.) in terms of G.O.Ms.No.33 Finance (TFR-I) Dept., dated 09.02.2006.

9. The disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer was retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 28.02.2017.

10. After careful examination of the matter with reference to findings of the Inquiry Officer & Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Guntur and written representation, dated 28.11.2017 submitted by the Charged Officer, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a punishment of "Withholding of 6% (Six Percent) of pension permanently, besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.10,30,540/- (Principle Amount Rs.9,52,000/- + Interest Amount @ 6.25% Rs.59,500/- + Addl. Interest @ 2% Rs.19,040/-) and suspension period be treated as not on duty" against Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Social Forestry Ponnur Section, Social Forestry Ponnur Range of Social Forestry Guntur Division.

11. Accordingly, in the Govt.Memo.2nd read above, a Show-cause Notice was issued to the Charged Officer through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, for submission of his representation.

12. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has informed that the Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Show-cause Notice on 07.07.2023 but did not submit his representation.

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::4::

13. Therefore, it has been provisionally decided to impose a punishment of "Withholding of 6% (Six Percent) of pension permanently, besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.10,30,540/- (Principle Amount Rs.9,52,000/- + Interest Amount @ 6.25% Rs.59,500/- + Addl. Interest @2% Rs.19,040/-) and the suspension period be treated as not on duty" against Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Social Forestry Ponnur Section, Social Forestry Ponnur Range of Social Forestry Guntur Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 and in the Govt. Letter 4th read above, the Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission has been requested to obtain and communicate the concurrence of the Commission on the proposed punishment against Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.).

14. In the letter 5th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission has stated that the Commission agreed with the proposal of the Government.

15. Government after careful examination of the matter, have decided and hereby order to impose a punishment of "Withholding of 6% (Six Percent) of pension permanently, besides recovery of Government loss of Rs.10,30,540/- (Principle Amount Rs.9,52,000/- + Interest Amount @6.25% Rs.59,500/- + Addl. Interest @ 2% Rs.19,040/-) and suspension period be treated as not on duty" against Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Social Forestry Ponnur Section, Social Forestry Ponnur Range of Social Forestry Guntur Division, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

16. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

17. The receipt of Government Order shall be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

Sri B. Parthasaradhi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Social Forestry Ponnur Section, Social Forestry Ponnur Range of Social Forestry Guntur Division through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri. (With original connected case record i.e., Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle File No.3143/2015/M3 (CF pages from 01 to 344 and NF pages from 01 to 22))

Copy to:

The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.

The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.

✓ The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
SF/SC (Computer No.1594517).

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

